

Christ Lutheran Church
23425 Davis Mill Road
Germantown, Maryland 20876

A Congregation of the American Association of Lutheran Churches



Our Mission Statement

We strive to be worthy witnesses to the world.

At Christ Lutheran, we strive to lead lives worthy of our calling as witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ in God's world.

(Ephesians 4:1)

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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Vicar: Chris Clarke
Liturgist: Bob Petersen



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

During the music before the service let us join in a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*Please stand as you are able where marked****

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

****The Confession and Absolution*

Presenter: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Presenter: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(A time of silent reflection and self-examination.)

Presenter: Most merciful God.

People: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Presenter: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

****Opening Hymn:*

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

(Refrain)

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, vision of rapture now burst on my sight:

Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Refrain)

*****Psalm: Psalm 23 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: The Lord is my shepherd;

People: I shall not want.

Liturgist: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

People: He leads me beside still waters.

Liturgist: He restores my soul.

People: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Liturgist: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

People: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Liturgist: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

People: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Liturgist: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

People: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*****The Gloria Patri: (sung)** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*****The Kyrie: (responses are sung)**

Liturgist: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Liturgist: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Liturgist: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Liturgist: Glory be to God on high!

*****Gloria in Excelsis: (sung)** And on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*****Collect:**

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Liturgist: Let us pray.

People: O God, who makes the minds of the faithful to be of one will: Grant unto thy people that they may love what thou commandest, and desire what thou dost promise; that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Scripture Lessons:

First Reading: Acts 4:1-12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple *guard* and the Sadducees came up to them, ²being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they laid hands on them and put *them* in prison until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

⁵ On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; ⁶ and Annas the high priest *was there*, and Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. ⁷ When they had placed them in the center, they *began to* inquire, “By what power, or in what name, have you done this?” ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people, ⁹ if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead— by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health. ¹¹ He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, *but* WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved.”

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers *and sisters*. ¹⁷ But whoever has worldly goods and sees his brother *or sister* in need, and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God remain in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let’s not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. ¹⁹ We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will set our heart at ease before Him, ²⁰ that if our heart condemns us, that God is greater than our heart, and He knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask, we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

²³ This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps His commandments remains in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He remains in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Alleluia: (sung) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Presenter: Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the tenth chapter of Saint John, beginning with the eleventh verse.

*****People (sung)** Glory be to thee, O Lord

Gospel Lesson: John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters *the flock*. ¹³ *He flees* because he is a hired hand and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice; and they will become one flock, *with* one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it back. ¹⁸ No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from My Father.”

Presenter: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

*****People: (sung)** Praise be to thee, O Christ



Pulpit Hymn:

The King of Love

Hymn #530

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.

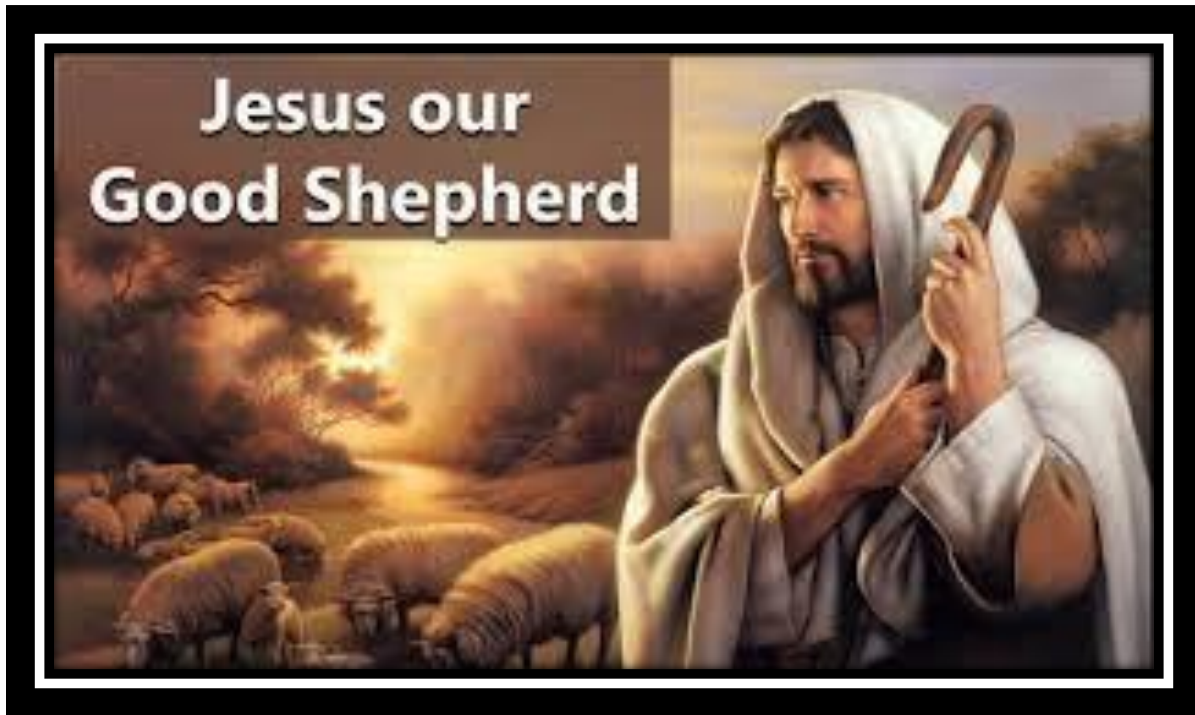
Where streams of living water flow My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid, And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport and delight From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise Within thy house for ever.



The Sermon Response: (sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.

*****Passing of the Peace**

*****The Apostles' Creed:**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

*****The General Prayer: (after each petition)**

Presenter: Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

*****The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

*****The Prayer Response: (sung)**

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace. Amen.

*****The Benediction:**

Presenter: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: (sung) A-men, A-men, A----men.

*****Closing Hymn:**

The Lord's My Shepherd

Hymn #522

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill;
For thou art with me; and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

*****The Postlude**

Prayers and Praises:

For our church leaders:

Presiding Pastor: The Rev Dr. Carey G. Larson
Assistant Presiding Pastor: The Rev Roger Twito
AALC Administrator: The Rev Dean Stoner
Secretary Pastor: The Rev Joe Marsh
Home Mission Developer: The Rev Joe Christina
National Office Manager: Bonnie Ohlrich
Seminary President: The Rev Dr. Jordan Cooper
Seminary Administrator: Duane Kleven

Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Sharon Phelps	Chris and Bob Bingaman
Jimmy Beall	Dorothy Foster	Becky Stapf	Matt Ruppalt
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Meryl Benenati	Norita Shipley
Eddie Neighbors	Kris Johnson	Carrie Perini	Marty Beall
Linda Comer	Brian Stitely	The Rev. Fred Balke	Diamond Castillo
Audrey Stapf	Irv Stapf	Scott Caille	Cam Swanson
Bob Clarke	Derek Clay	Bob Pickett	

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke, Travis Hawk, Bethany Hueter, Chaplain John Reutemann, Chaplain Len Brokenshire, Cameron Donk, Ethan Stone, Rebecca Deppe, Wendy Ahern, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: Pastor Thomas Jahr, Federal Prison Supervising Chaplain, Atlanta, GA

For our missionary work: Great Commission Families (Beall)

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Shelby Evans, Maddie Day, Joseph Flesch, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf

Pray for the families of those involved in the collapse of the Key Bridge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Bible Study: Tuesday: 1:30 PM at Church**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday: 10 AM at Carolyn's**
- **Adult and Children's Sunday School: 9:30 Sunday mornings.**
- **You may continue to watch the Sunday services (10:30 AM) via Livestream on Facebook – Christ Lutheran Church AALC. The Bulletins for the services are on our website: christlutheranofgermantown.org. The video of every livestream is on our Facebook page. You can access the livestream by clicking the link at the bottom of the first page of our website or by visiting the Facebook page directly. Be sure to click on the 'videos' tab.**
- **Thank you everyone, for your monetary and non-perishable food item donations for Damascus HELP.**
- **Church Council will meet after church today.**